



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2007

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District of Arizona*

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PHOENIX WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILDREN INTO THE U.S.

TUCSON – Brenda Aguirre, 25, of Phoenix, was sentenced here today to 15 months in prison, and three years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins. Aguirre had pleaded guilty on September 22, 2006, to conspiring to transport illegal aliens.

On April 2, 2006, Aguirre presented herself for admission into the United States at the port of entry in Douglas, Arizona. She was accompanied by two children, ages 3 and 5, who she claimed were her son and daughter. Aguirre claimed that both she and the children were U.S. citizens. Further investigation revealed that both children were Mexican citizens, and that Aguirre, a U.S. citizen, was to receive \$500 to smuggle the children into the United States.

At the sentencing, Aguirre stated that she had been approached by someone at her church regarding bringing the children into the U.S.

Aguirre, who is a single mother of five children including a 3 month old, will be permitted to surrender to the U.S. Marshal's Service on March 28, 2007, to begin serving her sentence.

The investigation was conducted by Customs and Border Protection, Douglas, of the Department of Homeland Security. The prosecution was handled by Cynthia R. Wood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0806
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-036(Aguirre)

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